

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of:
MOK, et al.

Serial No.: 10/823,849

Confirmation No.: 5507

Filed: April 13, 2004

For: TWO POSITION ANNEAL
CHAMBER

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Group Art Unit: 2818


Examiner: David Vu

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via EFS-Web to the attention of Examiner David Vu, on the date shown below.

October 20, 2006
Date


Nan Z. Carr

Dear Sir:

REPLY BRIEF

Applicants submit this Reply Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in response to the Examiner's Answer dated September 12, 2006. Please charge any additional fees that may be required to make this Reply Brief timely and acceptable to Deposit Account No. 20-0782/APPM/008298/KMT.

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Grounds of Rejection to Be Reviewed

1. Claims 1-21 and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by *Yang et al.* (US 2004/0016637).

ARGUMENTS

A. Rejection of Claims 1-21 and 26-29 over *Yang et al.*

Claims 1-21 and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by *Yang et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0016637; serial number 10/616,284). The Examiner states that the effective filing date of *Yang et al.* for subject matter claimed by Applicants is July 24, 2002, the filing date of a provisional application 60/398,345. Applicants have respectfully traversed the rejections on grounds that the claimed subject matter of the instant application has an effective filing date prior to the effective filing date of the subject matter relied on in *Yang et al.*

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner erroneously relies on disclosure of an annealing system in *Yang et al.* because the relevant reference date of the subject matter relied on in *Yang et al.* is not earlier than the effective filing date April 18, 2003 of the present application.

The Examiner argues, in the Examiner's Answer dated September 12, 2006, that *Yang et al.* claims priority to a provisional application 60/435,121, filed December 19, 2002, which teaches an annealing chamber system in paragraph [0021] and provides subject matter relied on in the 102(e) rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner erred in asserting that provisional application 60/435,121 teaches subject matter claimed in the present application. The provisional application 60/435,121 discloses an anneal chamber (Paragraph [0021]). However, the provisional application 60/435,121 does not teach a semiconductor processing platform comprising a plurality of annealing chambers, as set forth in claims 1, 10 and 26, and claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection based on *Yang et al.* and allowance of claims 1-21 and 26-29 are respectively requested.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner erroneously rejected claims 1-21 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over *Yang et al.* Thus, Applicants respectfully request reversal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-21 and 26-29.

Respectfully submitted,



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